William Shakespeare

Born: 1564

Died: 1616

Hometown: Stratford-upon-Avon   
Best known for: penning 38 plays, 154 sonnets, and other poetry

Parents: John Shakespeare (high bailiff) and Mary Arden

Wife: Anne Hathaway

Children: Susanna and twins Judith and Hamnet

Acting Troupe: Lord Chamberlain’s Men, later known as The King’s Men

Theater: The Globe Theatre (burned down in 1613)

Trivia Facts:

* Shakespeare coined thousands words, about 500 of them are now part of the English language
* Hamlet is Shakespeare’s longest play with 4,042 lines
* The first play Shakespeare wrote was *Henry VI*
* Shakespeare is assumed to have been born on April 23 (based on baptismal records) and he died on April 23
* Shakespeare addressed two subjects in his sonnets – a beloved friend and a “Dark Lady”
* Shakespeare’s plays are divided into three main categories – histories, tragedies, and comedies
* The first complete collection of his work – the First Folio – was printed in 1623
* Shakespeare put a curse on anyone who dared to move his body after he was buried:

Good friend for Jesus' sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here: Blest be the man that spares these stones, And curst be he that moves my bones.

* There are about 15 million websites on Google that refer to Shakespeare
* *Macbeth* is thought to be one of the most widelyproduced plays; a production of it begins somewhere in the world every four hours